

DAVE Bullock, Wycombe Wanderers' utility defender has left the club after five years to join another Rothmans Isthmian League club Hayes, for whom he played on Saturday.

The main reason for Bullock's departure after a long and loyal stay at Loakes Park, is a shortage of active football. Because of a lack of injuries among other defenders and the shortage of friendly matches, Bullock played only five times for The Blues this season.

Manager Ted Powell, explaining Bullock's departure, said "Dave wanted to have regular matches and as he has had only a handful of matches this season, we felt it was in his best interests to leave."

Bullock, himself, explained that he had waited until Wycombe were out of all major cup competition, before asking to leave, so that the club could call on his services. Once Wycombe had been beaten by Runcorn in the F.A. Trophy, there were no obstacles to his leaving.

BEST CLUB

Bullock paid a compliment to Wanderers this week. "I've been very happy at what I consider the best club in non-league football. I'm very sorry to go but at my

age — 30 — with only three seasons ahead of me I want to play as much as I can."

Wycombe tried to give him more football by lending him to local Hellenic League side Burnham for one game — but that's all.

By going to Hayes, Bullock is meeting up again with former Wycombe Wanderers players John Delaney, Geoff Antony and Paul Griffiths. Bullock is impressed by the atmosphere at his new club. "They're a great bunch of players and the team spirit is tremendous."

In Saturday's 3-1 defeat by Weston-Super-Mare in the Rothmans Knock-Out Cup, Bullock played at full-back. But with Delaney moving up to mid-field, Bullock hopes to play in his best position of central defender for the rest of the season.

It was in this position that he excelled in Blues' F.A. Cup run in 1973/74 and it was his performance at the back that helped them to a shock 3-1 victory over Newport. Two years later he scored the first goal in their 2-1 Cup replay victory over Bedford.

TOOTING VISIT

Wycombe, meanwhile concentrate on tonight's (Tuesday) Division One visit to Tooting and Mitcham, who were knocked out of the Trophy on Saturday by Morecambe who won a close game 3-2.

Mr Powell is expected to make one change from the side that won so impressively at Leytonstone in what the manager described as "our best display in two months." Gavin Fraser will probably come in for Graham Mackenzie who is unavailable.

Tooting's side will be selected from: J. Dunn, D. Shea, T. Ford, K. Highland, S. Grubb, A. Berrecloth, D. Casey, B. Green, D. Clapton, D. Juneman, D. Dennis, A. Ives, N. Glover.